

# The Learning Cooperative Newsletter

November 2013  
Volume 3, Issue 1

## Contents

A New Year	1
Co-oping Information	1
Important Dates	1
Fundraising/Special Events	2
Apple Picking pictures	2
In the Classroom	3
Enrichment Classes	3
Special Thanks	4
Coming Up	4

## A New Year

A new school is already well under way. How is it already November and cooler weather?

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child at The Learning Cooperative.

We enjoy spending time with your great children - watching them discover who they are and seeing those "aha" moments when they've learned something new.

We have a wonderful group of families and look forward to working together for a positive first school experience for everyone involved.

In the classroom, the children are having a great time making friends and problem-solving with guidance and on their own.

Transition to a classroom setting, (listening, taking turns, waiting for a turn in line,) is going well, and it is nice to see friends who attended last year did not lose any of these skills and we could get right into planned curriculum.

If you ever have any questions about our curriculum or any aspect of school, **PLEASE ASK!**

## Important Dates to Remember!

- ◆ 11/21/2013  
Ready, Set, Go!  
Math Skills  
workshop 9:30am  
at Salem Family  
Resources
- ◆ 11/19/2013  
FunPass orders  
due
- ◆ 11/22/2013  
Parent's Night Out  
11:30am - 10pm
- ◆ 11/28/2013 &  
11/29/2013 No  
School - HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!
- ◆ 12/6/2013  
Photos with Santa  
at North Salem  
Elementary

## Co-oping Information

There will be a co-op schedule and a supplies rotation posted and emailed to you. Co-oping is optional. Please let us know if you are able to co-op on the day you are scheduled, or if you will just be bringing snack and supplies.

If you are co-oping, you stay at school with your child, bring a healthy snack for the entire class - enough for 14 children and the supplies requested for that day of the week

Co-oping allows you to spend time with your child and see what their day is like, to meet your child's friends, help out with classroom activities and the fun of clean up.

Your child is leader for the day and proud to show you what he/she does on a day-to-day basis.

**If you have any questions, PLEASE ASK!**

The following is the list of what to bring on your co-op day *in addition to snack:*

**Mondays** - hand soap (we suggest Market Basket brand foaming soap). Soap CANNOT say "keep out of reach of children"

**Tuesdays** - two boxes of tissues

**Wednesdays** - Clorox or Lysol cleaning wipes or disinfecting spray

**Thursdays** - plain white paper towels or napkins

**Fridays** - "generic" back up snack-pretzels, animal crackers, cereal

## NEW \* NEW \* NEW

Please send in a **WATER BOTTLE** (refillable if possible) with your child **DAILY**, (please label)

This will allow your child to access his/her water whenever thirsty and eliminates cups and bulky water purchases.

## Fundraising and Special Events



Reaching for the perfect apple at Mac's Apples

We are excited to announce several fundraising activities coming up in November and December! These special events help us raise vital funds to continue offering affordable, quality programs for all as well as tuition-assistance for those in need. Fundraisers are planned to be useful to you, too!

### Breathe NH FunPass November 4 to November 19

A coupon book with coupons worth over \$1,500 for over 100 attractions located in New England. The book costs only \$32, (through our fundraiser- less than the online cost!) This book pays for itself with *one* visit to Story Land, Canobie Lake Park, or a day of skiing. FunPass books make a perfect Holiday family gift for everyone on your list! Preorders will be accepted!

### "Winter's Here! Cheer" Calendar November 18 to December 21st

This January Calendar offers daily chances to win valuable prizes and costs only \$5 each. These are a GREAT and inexpensive gift for the mail carrier, bus driver, newspaper delivery person, and make nice stocking stuffers for those hard-to-buy-for men in your life. For this prize-calendar fundraiser, **we are currently seeking donations of gift cards, items of value above \$25, or cash to give as daily prizes.** Please note that we need those in hand **November 15th.** Preorders will be accepted!

**Bonus for January 2014 Calendars:** Children's "mini" prize calendar- prizes valued at \$10 specifically for children! (Toys R Us, Laser Craze, Chunky's, and theme mini baskets).



Students enjoying apple and pumpkin doughnuts and apple cider

### Parents' Day/Night Out!

Do you need to get ready for Thanksgiving by cleaning your house without the kids under foot? Want to go food shopping alone? Start holiday shopping early? Date night? Want to go to the movies? We have got good news for YOU!

On Friday, November 22, 2013 we are offering a special **parents day out**. For just \$5 per hour per child, you can leave your child with adults that you trust so you can do what you need to do ... alone! You pack your child lunch or dinner and snacks - we provide the fun activities and entertainment.

Reserve the hours you would like **now** (by November 20) so we can schedule staffing.

Sign up schedule will be at school or email at: [info@salemfamilyresources.org](mailto:info@salemfamilyresources.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Miss Bailey's is offering to take orders for your apple crisp and deliver to the school - just in time for the holidays! The price is \$10 for a small and \$20 for a large frozen apple crisp. You can order directly with Jamie at 603.490.7858 OR [mbapplecrisp@gmail.com](mailto:mbapplecrisp@gmail.com)



We closed out our fun day with counting "apple seeds" and taking turns on the swing

**Attention Holiday Shoppers!** Do you get your holiday shopping done and then dread trying to wrap all those presents without the kids around? You're in luck! New this year, we are offering holiday wrapping.

Bring in your gifts Tuesdays or Fridays, (after drop off at school...shhh!) and either you provide your own special paper and tags or we will have a variety on hand. Our "elves" will have them wrapped and bagged by pick up time. Cost is as low as 50 cents per item or a bulk rate for all your purchases! Other days/times (Saturdays), too. Please see/contact Jen Trela 339-4081 for details.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Photos with Santa December 6 at North Salem Elementary School

Be sure to get your holiday photo with Santa at our **Photos with Santa** at North Salem Elementary School (donation of \$5 per photo/family requested) Our Santa is WONDERFUL and this is a very affordable life-long childhood memento.

Raffles and Jen's adorable snowman, home-made, **gift card holders** will be on sale!

## In the classroom

We started the year off getting to know our new friends, helping them learn the class routine and creating new friendships.

We are extremely proud of how quickly the children have grown accustomed to the routine and have become self-directed upon entering the classroom.

In September we began with familiar topics (color identification, familiar rhymes) to build confidence and a comfort level in the classroom.

We moved into exploring the science of primary and secondary colors, (making blue and yellow paint magically become green), and the children's natural environment with fall topics; changing leaves, apples, pumpkins, scarecrows, and, of course, Halloween!

Books, Songs, rhymes, and activities addressed these themes while building language skills, early reading, math, visual motor skills, gross and fine motor skills.

Early assessments of each child's skills in the areas of pre-reading, math, gross and fine motor assist us to develop specific activities within the curriculum to meet each child's needs.

Goals within the curriculum run from simple numeral identification to adding single digits, from name recognition to sight words, and we are ALL working on visual motor and fine motor skills

All of the work you see hanging up or going home has a purpose!

If you ever have any questions about our curriculum or any aspect of school, PLEASE ASK!

Our November themes are numbers, families, friends, food, and fun all for Thanksgiving.

Many of the children have cognitive skills beyond what their fine motor skills can support, which is as expected, developmentally. (For example, they may know their numbers, but are not able to write them legibly). We will build in strategies like using number stamps, stickers, magnetic numbers, tactile numbers, daubers and small objects so they can convey what they know in a more concrete, fun and successful manner.

Many of you may be hearing about the "new" Core Curriculum Standards that are being mandated by the State of NH and Salem Schools. Ms Jury researched and attended classes to incorporate these expectations and the language that our children will encounter when they move on to kindergarten.

## Enrichment

Our Enrichment classes bring an additional focus to each of the topics.

Monday's "Cooking, Cultures & Creativity" with Ms. Jury and Mrs. Fichera has been really fun with some great dramatic arts, cooking some unique and fun foods, and learning a little about other cultures. We acted out Little Red Riding Hood, made a variety of apple treats, chocolate spiders, and Monster Tacos.

Tuesday's "Exploring Fine Arts" with Mrs. D'Agostino includes each child having their own materials and learning how to care for them. Their experiences and blossoming of artistic talent is lovely to watch.

Mrs. Greenberg's Sensational Science has already covered a wide range of hands-on science that each student truly grasps, understands and enjoys in a way that they will never encounter elsewhere in their school careers.

## A Special Thanks

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we realize that we certainly have much to be thankful for - This year we have an especially wonderful group of families, and we are honored and proud to be included in your children's lives. There is truly never a dull moment!

We are thankful for all so many families do, that is "above and beyond"- from breaking down and setting up our huge classroom EVERY week, to keeping us supplied with soap and tissues!

Thanks go out to:

- Our Parent Advisory Board chair, Trish DeVecchio for keeping us supplied with everything from cleaning wipes to cereal, and for her wise counsel.
- Salem Family Resources Board of Directors, and especially chairperson, Beth Gagnon for her faith in our school, in what we are accomplishing for all of families and students, and working continuously to keep us going!
- Trish Paris and family and Jen Trela for so many things- constantly moving all of our treasure in and out of storage, finding us GREAT new equipment (check out the fabulous new vertical surface desk! It may look familiar to those of you who visited the Kelley Library in the past), securing the gorgeous new colored advertising posters from aunt Mari Duffy that will help us spread the word about our programs, keeping an eye out for great curriculum finds and Butch Paris for fixing the bathroom sink!

Also to:

- Darren Pariseault for landscaping and making our playground safe with the donation of mulch from Home Depot.
- Donna Goulet, (and Joe!) who do such an outstanding job, and often at a moment's notice!
- Mrs. D'Agostino for her unending wealth of knowledge and the artistic talent that she brings out in her to her Tuesday enrichment class students.
- Mrs. Greenberg for her outstanding science enrichment class. I am amazed each and every week and her students are fortunate to be spending time with a world class scientist.
- Melissa Santos for her expertise in keeping our website functioning.
- Mrs. Fichera for her unending patience- that comes naturally to her with the children, but we are thankful nonetheless and I am especially appreciative of her patience with Ms Jury!
- Holly Case for organizing the FunPass fundraiser
- Jen Trela, again, for taking on the organizing of our fundraisers, especially the Prize Calendar and securing many of the prizes to get us going, AND for offering her time and talents to gift-wrapping as a GREAT benefit to us all as well as a terrific fundraiser, AND knitting the adorable snowman gift card holders AND being our resident photographer AND for this newsletter! Each of these is quite an undertaking!
- All of you for sharing your amazing children with us.

## Coming Up...

December will bring the Polar Express to school. We will be finishing the "big" project that we started in September and will go home, uniquely wrapped in mid-December. We'll be talking about shapes, trains, and continue our work with each child in their math and reading skills. Again, if your family celebrates a holiday that might be different than others, or celebrate in a special way, great recipe, etc. please share that with us.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Unbelievably, we will be looking at beginning NEW registrations for Fall, 2014 as early as January. Openings will be available to you, as "in-house" families, first.



# Halloween 2013

